

**IN THE DRAWINGS**

Applicants enclose an Annotated Sheet for Figs. 30A and 30B showing error corrections to Fig. 30B. Applicants also enclose a Replacement Sheet reflecting the corrections.

**REMARKS**

Claims 3-4, 6-7, 11, and 16-17 have been canceled. Claims 1-2, 5, 8-10, 12-15, and 18-20 remain pending in the application. Applicants amend Fig. 30B for an error correction. No new matter has been added.

Applicants amend Fig. 30B to correct the illustration of an alternative scenario described in the specification to the one illustrated in Fig. 30A. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, 12-15, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,738,352 to Yamada et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,452,902 to Buyukkoc et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner cited col. 16, lines 40-55 of Yamada et al. as alleged disclosure of the claimed deciding feature. The cited portion of Yamada et al. only includes, however, description of determining whether measured traffic on a transfer path exceeds a set traffic amount, and moving portions of the path to other transfer paths if it does. Conversely, the path is made available to other paths if the measured traffic is below the set traffic amount. In other words, the cited portion of Yamada et al. only includes description of generally reducing the chances of traffic loss by maintaining suitable transfer paths with relatively low measured traffic. It, therefore, does not disclose the claimed feature of deciding whether traffic loss occurs by redistributing the traffic flow from said failed route to the route other than said failed route. The maintenance comparison of measured traffic to a general set traffic amount described in Yamada et al. cannot decide whether traffic loss occurs by redistributing the traffic flow.

Thus, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine Yamada et al. and Buyukkoc et al., the combination would still have failed to disclose or suggest,

“[a] traffic engineering method of a network divided into a plurality of areas, each area including a plurality of nodes, said method comprising the steps of:

carrying out a load-balancing process at a boundary node in said each area in a closed manner;

calculating a normalized value used for the load-balancing process, based on address information of a packet supplied to an ingress node of the network from an outside of the network;

adding said normalized value to switching information of said packet;

forwarding said packet from said ingress node to the plurality of nodes;

receiving said packet from said ingress node at an area boundary node located on a boundary of the plurality of areas;

extracting said normalized value, used for carrying out the load-balancing process in an area including said area boundary node, from the switching information of said packet;

redistributing a traffic flow from a failed route to a route other than the failed route if receiving a failure notification at said ingress node or said area boundary node; and

deciding whether a traffic loss occurs by redistributing the traffic flow from said failed route to the route other than said failed route,” as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, together with claims 2, 5, and 8 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Yamada et al. and Buyukkoc et al., separately and in combination, for at least the above-stated reasons. Claims 9, 19, and 20 include features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above, and are, therefore, together with claims 10, 12-15, and 18 dependent from claim 9, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

The above statements on the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically

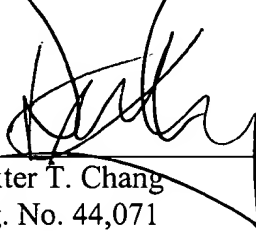
indicate those portions of the respective reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that the additional references made of record, but not applied, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable, whether these references are considered alone or in combination with others.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

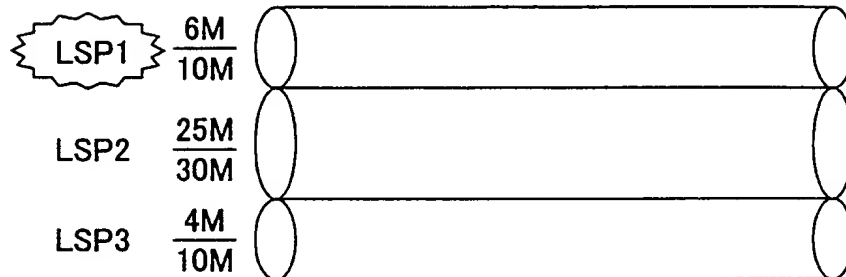
  
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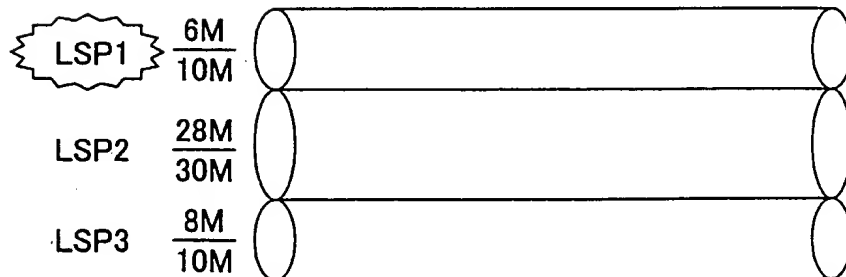
## Annotated Sheet

### FIG.30A



TOTAL AVAILABLE BANDWIDTH - AVAILABLE BANDWIDTH OF LSP1 =  $15M - 4M = 11M$ , WHICH IS GREATER THAN EFFECTIVE LOAD (6M) ON LSP1. TRAFFIC CAN BE REDISTRIBUTED WITHOUT LOSS.

### FIG.30B



LESS



TOTAL AVAILABLE BANDWIDTH - AVAILABLE BANDWIDTH OF LSP1 =  $8M - 4M = 4M$ , WHICH IS ~~GREATER~~ <sup>LESS</sup> THAN EFFECTIVE LOAD (6M) ON LSP1. TRAFFIC ~~CAN BE~~ REDISTRIBUTED WITHOUT LOSS.

CANNOT BE.